

# Spark Gap

Volume 24, Issue 12, December 2007 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Four Years*

## FORT WAYNE OR BUST!



Jack Parker,  
W8ISH, MARC  
President

*The Official  
Newsletter of the  
Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P. O. Box 836  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

Expectation ran high while making the annual trek to Fort Wayne to see the newest ham radio equipment. A feeling of disappointment replaced the euphoria after seeing the reduced size of the hamfest layout. Historically what had been a

bustling two-room candy store of technological treats was reduced to only one large arena. Many hams expecting to see the latest rigs on display from Kenwood, Icom, and Yaesu found only a small layout of high tech Yaesu equipment. Those of us visiting the Yaesu tables came away with a free hat. That put Yaesu one notch above the other guys. However, if you were a Kenwood or Icom user you had to rely on R and L or the Ham Station to see and price the latest rigs.

Icom's D-Star radio system was all the buzz. That forum was packed with hams

eager to hear how the latest digital technology was going to change the way we communicate on amateur radio.

Young hams rushing the doors at the 9:00 a.m. opening quickly scoured the computer tables for great deals on games and software. They quickly disappeared as older hams commented that those kids only wanted to exercise their joysticks and not a classic radio knob.

Project parts were in abundance this year. While most used computer equipment lacked much interest the electronic component parts tables did a brisk business.

### *Happy*

### *Holidays!*

Seeing, greeting and finding old friends were made easier by consolidating everything into one room. The crowd seemed to be as large as previous years. The door prizes were just as numerous and all-in-all it was a good two-day event. Too bad more hams and vendors didn't take advantage of this annual pilgrimage to the Ft. Wayne Coliseum. Maybe next year...

73, Jack, W8ISH  
MARC Prez ■



2008 Fort Wayne Hamfest  
Photo by Jack Parker, W8ISH

# Misleading and Incorrect Rumors Surround IARU Region 2 Band Plan



**ARRL:** December, 2007. Misleading and incorrect rumors are surrounding the recently revised band plan of IARU Region 2, adopted at its triennial conference in Brazil in September. The following statement was authorized by ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

During the conference, held September 10-14 in Brasilia, representatives from IARU Region 2 societies met in committees prior to a final plenary session and adopted recommendations concerning a

number of items important to Amateur Radio in the region. These included plans to improve emergency communication, enhance education and reduce interference to national emergency nets, as well as revising the Region 2 HF band plan.

The revised Region 2 band plan for 160-10 meters takes effect January 1, 2008. The band plan is based on the band plan adopted by IARU Region 1 at its conference in Davos, Switzerland in September 2005.

IARU regional band plans have been in existence for many years. They are developed, reviewed and approved at regional conferences of the IARU Member-Societies. The band plans provide voluntary guidelines and recommendations for good operating practice that are intended to assist amateurs in making the most effective use of our limited frequency allocations. They are not restrictions and carry no regulatory authority.

Unlike the US, where the FCC's Part 97 rules regulate the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Radio Service by emission designator, many countries do not have government-regulated sub-bands within their amateur allocation. Because of this, the national Amateur Radio societies in these countries look to a band plan to provide guidance for the location of operating preferences. In such cases, these countries are urged to promote incorporation or recognition of a band plan into their regulations. In the United States, however, ARRL's band plans will continue to

provide guidance for recommended operating preferences including the 160 meter band plan that was revised in 2001 on the basis of membership input.

One virtue of voluntary band plans is that they are more flexible and can be amended more easily than the FCC rules; writing them into the rules would be counterproductive. As voluntary guidelines, the band plan cannot by definition be "more severe" than regulations; however, if the band plan did not suggest an operating pattern that is a subset of the regulations, it would serve no purpose.

There is also a mistaken assumption that the new IARU Region 2 band plan is an ARRL initiative seeking regulation by bandwidth. It is not, nor is it in any way a vehicle to achieve regulation by bandwidth.

While a number of Amateur Radio organizations and publishers support and agree with the ARRL on the concept of regulation by bandwidth as an essential element to the orderly introduction of new digital modes into the HF bands, ARRL will not be pursuing a rulemaking until some degree of consensus can be achieved in the amateur community.

ARRL has conducted an open process of soliciting input regarding matters of importance to the Amateur Radio Service. That will continue prior to the submission of any proposals for future regulatory changes to improve the Amateur Radio Service.

As one of the 39 Member-Societies of IARU Region 2, the ARRL will, as always, continue to openly work to improve the Region 2 band planning process prior to the next conference and give its members ample opportunity to offer comments and suggestions. Members may provide input to their elected representative (identified on page 15 of QST), or to our Ad-hoc Band Plan Committee and e-mail address that was established in 2006 at [bandplan@arrl.org](mailto:bandplan@arrl.org).

## Officers

**President:**  
Jack Parker,  
W8ISH

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Carol Osborne,  
KC9CFK

**Treasurer:**  
Steve Carmean,  
K9DY

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Jay Chrisman,  
AA9YP

**Spark Gap Editor:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

## Annual Dues

It's that time again. Club dues are now due for 2008. Please see the club treasurer, Steve Carmean, K9DY, at the December meeting and pay your club dues at that time. Full member dues at \$18.00 per year for membership in MARC.

Full members are those who have a valid amateur radio license. Full members may vote and hold office. Associate members are those who are licensed and/or unlicensed without the privilege of voting and/or holding license. Associate member dues are \$10.00 per year.

MARC also has a category for family members. Family members are persons related to and living in the same household as a full member. Family members may not vote or hold office.

Another category of membership is available. Honorary Lifetime Members may be nominated at any regular meeting. Such nominations must be made by a full member of MARC. This status is intended to be an exceptional honor, in recognition of especially meritorious and distinguished contributions of the nominee of the club. A majority vote of members present and voting is required to confer this status.

An Honorary Lifetime Member shall pay no dues and shall retain all the privileges of full membership. A Dues Exempt Membership is also available. Please see our Treasurer for details.

## Updating Club Roster

December is also the time to update your club information. Linda, KC9GCH, will have membership forms for all paid members to fill out at the December and January 2008 meetings. Please fill out the forms and turn them in to our Treasurer, Steve, K9DY.

Also on hand will be applications for ARES/RACES. If your information has changed, or if you wish to join, please see Linda for a forms. Completed forms should be given to Bob LaGrange, N9SIU.

## VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. For directions to the meeting and/or test site, please check out our website at [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org).

## NWS Info

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Indianapolis will hold it's next installment of the Central Indiana Severe Weather Symposium, an all day session, on Saturday, March 1st, 2008 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Valle Vista Conference Center, 775 East Main Street, Greenwood, Indiana. The Symposium is cosponsored by the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Meteorological Society and the National Weather Service in Indianapolis. This Symposium will be geared towards providing more advance information for spotters. More information and the registration form are available at [www.crh.noaa.gov](http://www.crh.noaa.gov). Early registration fee is \$30 but must be received by February 1, 2008.

## Annual Spotter Classes

Don't forget about 2008 Spotter Classes. NWS will be announcing those places and dates shortly, so be sure to watch the NWS website. I'm sure Tug Sutton will schedule one session with them to be held at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency in Franklin, IN.

Date and time will be listed on the schedule of events as soon as announced.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL**  
**Tone**

**Weekly Net**  
**Every Sunday**  
**at 7PM EST**

***Tune in to hear***  
***the ARRL***  
***Newsline!***

*The Mid-State  
Amateur Radio Club  
sponsors a weekly  
traffic and social net  
on our repeater. The  
net begins at 7:00  
p.m. local time, and  
features local news,  
announcements, and  
NTS traffic, as well  
as rebroadcasts of  
Amateur Radio  
Newsline.*

## Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills. Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby. For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to [netcontrol@midstatehams.org](mailto:netcontrol@midstatehams.org), and we will record your check-in!



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*Spark Gap*

# 2007 Schedule of Events

## Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

### DECEMBER 2007

#### 15 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

# 2008 Schedule of Events

### JANUARY 2008

#### 1 **MARC begins its TWENTY-FIFTH year in February!**

#### 19 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

### FEBRUARY 2008

#### 9 **5K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**

Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at [www.Indyhams.org](http://www.Indyhams.org) for more information or to volunteer

#### 16 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

#### 23 **Cabin Fever Hamfest, LaPorte, IN**

See [www.k9jsi.org](http://www.k9jsi.org) for more information; Talk-in 146.610 (PL131.8) or 146.520 Simplex

### MARCH 2008

#### 1 **National Weather Service Spotter Symposium, Valle Vista, Greenwood, IN**

See NWS website at [www.crh.noaa.gov](http://www.crh.noaa.gov) for more information; Early registration fee is \$30

#### 1 **Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest, Sullivan, IN**

See [www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html](http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html) for more information. Talk-in on 146.775 (PL136.5)

#### 1 **10K Mini Marathon, Indianapolis, IN**

Contact Mike Palmer, N9FEB, at [www.Indyhams.org](http://www.Indyhams.org) for more information or to volunteer

#### 15 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

## Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

**See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.**